

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 /067 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9158

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 19616

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP
SUBJECT: CHARGES AGAINST JOSE MARIA SISON

REF: MANILA 18396

1. THE FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CHARGES
AGAINST CAPTURED COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN JOSE MARIA SISON.

2. SISON IS CHARGED WITH VIOLATING REPUBLIC ACT 1700 (ANTI-SUBVERSION) FOR ORGANIZING AND LEADING THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES "MARXIST-LENINIST (CCP/ML) AND THE NEW PEOPLES ARMY (NPA). THIS CHARGE WAS FILED IN TARLAC PROVINCE IN 1970. IT IS BASED ON INFORMATION GLEANED FROM DOCUMENTS CACE FOUND IN TARLAC IN 1969. THE CASE HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE ORIGINAL CIVIL COURT IN TARLAC TO MILITARY JURISDICTION SINCE HIS CAPTURE.

3. SISON IS ALSO CHARGED WITH TWO COUNTS OF REBELLION FOR PARTICIPATING IN ARMS SMUGGLING. THESE COUNTS RELATE TO TWO SHIPLOADS OF ARMS COMING FROM THE PRC TO THE NPA. THE ARMS WERE ABOARD THE MV KARGATAN, WHICH RAN AGROUND IN 1971, AND THE MV DONA ANDREA, WHICH SANK IN 1974 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED TO HAVE CONTAINED ARMS. THE OTHER CAPTURED COMMUNIST SUPERSTARS, BERNABE BUSCAYNO AND VICTOR CORUPZ -- WHO WERE RECENTLY SENTENCED WITH SENATOR
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AQUINO -- ARE CHARGED IN THESE CASES AS WELL.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE DOCUMENTS FOUND WITH SISON AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE OTHER CHARGES AS WELL. IN ADDITION, SISON MAY BE CHARGED WITH OTHER, LESS "POLITICAL" CRIMES SUCH AS MURDER AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS.

5. RA 1700 DECLARES THE CCP/ML TO BE "AN ORGANIZED CONSPIRACY TO OVERTHROW" THE GOP. MEMBERSHIP IN THE CCP/ML IS PUNISHABLE BY A PRISON TERM OF ONE MONTH TO 12 YEARS; PARTICIPATING IN A CONSPIRACY TO OVERTHROW THE GOP BY A TERM OF 6 MONTHS TO 12 YEARS; AND LEADERSHIP OF THE CCP/ML BY A TERM OF 6 YEARS TO DEATH. ANTI-REBELLION LAWS ARE PRESUMABLY EQUALLY STIFF.
NEWSOM

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